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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/464,582	12/16/1999	NELS LAURITZEN	PPC-694	7760

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EXAMINER

KIDWELL, MICHELE M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3761

DATE MAILED: 12/14/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/464,582

Applicant(s)

LAURITZEN, NELS

Examiner

Michele Kidwell

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 November 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 13-17 and 21-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 13-17 and 21-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on November 3, 2004 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1 – 9, 13 – 17 and 21 – 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamamoto et al. (US 5,607,416).

With respect to claim 1, Yamamoto et al. (hereinafter "Yamamoto") discloses an integral disposable absorbent garment that may be worn about a human lower torso comprising a suspension sling for absorbing and containing body exudates (1) having longitudinally extending suspension sling side margins, a suspension sling distal end and a suspension sling proximal end (figure 4), said suspension sling being suspendable in a wearer's crotch region (col. 5, lines 32 –

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35) and a waist belt (2) having a first belt end secured to the suspensions sling proximal end and a second belt end wherein the waist belt is capable of encircling a user's waist with the suspension sling suspended in the wearer's crotch region and the second belt end attached to the first belt end at the suspension sling proximal end as set forth in col. 5, lines 21 – 35.

As to claim 2, Yamamoto discloses a suspension sling comprising a liquid permeable topsheet, liquid impermeable backsheet associated with the topsheet and an absorbent structure positioned between the topsheet and the backsheet as set forth in col. 3, lines 30 – 33.

With regard to claims 3 and 4, Yamamoto discloses a garment wherein the suspension sling further comprises an elastic element disposed in at least one suspension sling side margin as set forth in col. 3, lines 51 – 61 and in figure 1.

As to claim 5, Yamamoto discloses the garment wherein the waist belt is elastically contractible as set forth in col. 4, lines 24 – 40.

With reference to claims 6 – 8, Yamamoto discloses the garment further comprising a waist belt attachment system as a pressure sensitive adhesive and a mechanical fastener as set forth in col. 4, lines 40 – 50.

As to claim 9, Yamamoto discloses the garment wherein the suspension sling distal end further comprises suspension sling fasteners as set forth in figure 1.

With respect to claim 13, Yamamoto discloses an absorbent garment that may be worn about a human lower torso comprising a reusable waist belt having

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a first and second belt end (figure 3) with a first sling attachment location proximate the first belt end and a second sling attachment location disposed between the first and second belt ends (figure 1) and a disposable suspension sling for absorbing and containing body exudates (1) having longitudinally extending suspension sling side margins, a suspension sling distal end and a suspension sling proximal end (figure 4) wherein the suspension sling is attachable to the first and second sling attachment locations of the belt in a manner to suspend the suspension sling in a wearer's crotch (figure 1) and the waist belt (2) is capable of encircling a user's waist with the suspension sling suspended in the wearer's crotch region as set forth in col. 5, lines 21 – 35.

Regarding claim 14, Yamamoto discloses a garment wherein the second sling attachment location is disposed approximately midway between the first and second belt ends as set forth in figure 1.

As to claim 15, Yamamoto discloses a garment wherein the waist belt and suspension sling comprise a belt closure system as set forth in col. 4, lines 40 – 50.

With reference to claim 16, Yamamoto discloses a garment wherein the belt closure system comprises closure system elements (col. 3, lines 30 – 38) at least at the first and second sling attachment locations and proximate the suspension sling distal and proximal ends (figure 1).

With respect to claim 17, Yamamoto discloses a garment wherein closure system elements join the first sling attachment location to the suspension sling proximal end as set forth in col. 3, lines 30 – 38 and in figure 1.

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With respect to claim 21, Yamamoto discloses an integral disposable absorbent garment that may be worn about a human lower torso comprising a suspension sling (1) for absorbing and containing body exudates having longitudinally extending suspension sling side margins, a suspension sling distal end and a suspension sling proximal end (figure 4), said suspension sling being suspendable in a wearer's crotch region (col. 5, lines 32 – 35) and a waist belt (2) having a first belt end secured to the suspension sling proximal end and a second belt end wherein the waist belt is capable of encircling a user's waist with the suspension sling suspended in the wearer's crotch region by attaching the suspension sling distal end to a central portion of the waist belt and the second belt end attached to the first belt end as set forth in col. 5, lines 21 – 35.

As to claim 22, Yamamoto discloses the garment wherein the suspension sling distal end further comprises suspension sling fasteners as set forth in figure 1.

With reference to claims 23 – 24, Yamamoto discloses the garment wherein the suspension sling fasteners comprise pressure sensitive adhesive or a mechanical fastener as set forth in col. 4, lines 40 – 50.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed November 3, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

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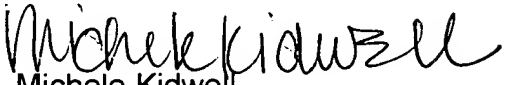
In response to applicant's argument that the pending claims have specific limitations that are used when the garment is fastened during use, a recitation of the intended use of the claimed invention must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claim. In a claim drawn to a process of making, the intended use must result in a manipulative difference as compared to the prior art. See *In re Casey*, 152 USPQ 235 (CCPA 1967) and *In re Otto*, 136 USPQ 458, 459 (CCPA 1963).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michele Kidwell whose telephone number is 571-272-4935. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 5:30am - 2:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Larry Schwartz can be reached on 571-272-4390. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Michele Kidwell
Examiner
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